

2871

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE PATENT APPLICATION OF: Smiley

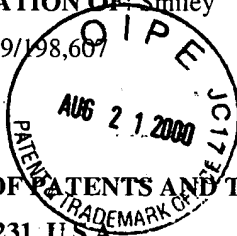
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EXAMINER: HEALY, B



THE COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS,
WASHINGTON, D.C., 20231, U.S.A.

8/B
G. Stony
8-24-00

August 11, 2000

Sir:

This is in response to an official action dated 07/20/00.

Kindly instruct the Office to amend the application as follows:

Please amend claims 1 and 3 as follows:

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B1

1. A method of attenuating a beam of light having a circular cross-section comprising the step of disposing a member having a substantially opaque beam attenuating portion within the beam of light, the intersection of the beam attenuating portion of the member and the beam of light defining a beam region that is smaller than the beam of the light and having two substantially equal sides defining an angle therebetween of other than 0 degrees and 180 degrees, the two sides having a central line of symmetry coincident with a line of symmetry through the centre of the circle, the angle moving along the line of symmetry.

B2

3. An optical attenuator for attenuating a beam of light having a circular cross-section, the optical attenuator comprising:
a beam attenuator which is at least partially light blocking for attenuating a portion of the beam of light when a portion of the beam attenuator is disposed within the beam of light, the beam attenuator being disposed within the beam of light such that the intersection of the beam attenuator and the beam of light defining a beam region that is smaller than the beam of the light and having two substantially equal sides having an angle other than 0 degrees and 180 degrees therebetween, the two sides having a central line of symmetry

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